Message Text

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SUBJECT: GERMAN PRESS REPORTS ON SCHMIDT/BLUMENTHAL MEETING

1. TODAY'S "DIE WELT" FRONT-PAGES A REPORT ON THE SCHMIDT/BLUMENTHAL MEETING WITH THE HEADLINE "BLUMENTHAL ALLOWS HIMSELF TO BE CONVERTED". ACCORDING TO "DIE WELT" THE TALK BETWEEN SCHMIDT AND BLUMENTHAL RESULTED IN REMOVING THE CONTROVERSY REGARDING BUSINESS CYCLE POLICY BETWEEN GERMANY AND THE U.S. WHICH HAD RESULTED FROM THE REPEATED ASSERTIONS FROM THE U.S. THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC DID NOT DO ENOUGH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE STIMULATION OF THE WORLD ECONOMY. SCHMIDT, ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, EXPLAINED THE ADDITIONAL MEASURES TAKEN BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC SINCE THE LONDON SUMMIT AND DID NOT RECEIVE AN ANSWER FROM BLUMENTHAL WHEN HE ASKED WHAT ADDITIONAL BUSINESS CYCLE MEASURES THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC SHOULD NOW TAKE. UNCLASSIFIED

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2. ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, COMPLETE AGREEMENT ALSO WAS REACHED CONCERNING THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THAT THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE VARIOUS ECONOMIES DEVELOPMENTS IN THE VARIOUS ECONOMIES CORRESPOND TO THE PLAN AGREED UPON AT LONDON, ACCORDING TO WHICH INDUSTRIAL NATIONS WITH HIGH FOREIGN

EXCHANGE RESERVES SHOULD EXPAND WITHOUT INFLATION WHILE DEFICIT COUNTRIES WORK FOR ADJUSTMENT THROUGH MORE STABILITY. SCHMIDT AND BLUMENTHAL ALSO UNDERLINED THE COMMON INTEREST IN FREE INTERNATIONAL TRADE. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS FOR FURTHER LIBERALIZATION IN GENEVA SHOULD BE PRESSED AHEAD IN THIS DIRECTION. THE EC WILL PARTICULARLY WORK FOR A HARMONIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMS DUTIES.

3. THE "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE" IN A SIMILAR REPORT UNDERLINES THAT NO AMERICAN DEMANDS WERE MADE THAT BONN SHOULD DO MORE TO REACH THIS YEAR'S 5 PERCENT REAL GROWTH TARGET AGREED IN LONDON. ACCORDING TO THE PAPER SCHMIDT LEAVES WASHINGTON WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT HIS CLEAR ANALYSIS OF THE GERMAN SITUATION AND POSSIBILITIES MADE AN IMPRESSION ON HIS PARTNERS AND HAS HELPED THEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT BONN'S POLICY IS DIRECTED MAINLY TO A LONG-TERM REDUCTION IN UNEMPLOYMENT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAINING STABILITY. THE PAPER ALSO INDICATES THAT SCHMIDT SPECIFICALLY ASKED WHETHER WASHINGTON HAS SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL GERMAN ECONOMIC MEASURES BUT RECEIVED NO ANSWER SINCE BONN'S CONDUCT WAS EXEMPLARY IF MEASURES ON DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE CHANCELLOR ALSO EXPRESSED DURING THE CONVERSATION WITH BLUMENTHAL HIS CONCERN REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAN CURRENT ACCOUNT, PARTICULARLY UNCLASSIFIED

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BECAUSE OF THE DESTABLIZING EFFECT THIS COULD HAVE ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS.
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